Association (IATA) have recently interacted with this Ministry to discuss various matters pertaining to civil aviation. IATA has taken up a feasibility study with a view to setting up an IATA learning centre in India. They are also analysing the immediate and future needs of the Indian market for formulating a proposal in this regard.

International Flights from Kochi Airport

3048. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to start new international flights from Kochi Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of applications from the foreign Airlines pending in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Air India and Indian Airlines together are presently operating 30 services per week out of Cochin. Out of the eleven (11) airlines namely Oman Air, Kuwait Airways. Gulf Air, Sri Lankan Airlines, Qatar Airways. Emirates, Saudia, Singapore Airlines, Yemen Airways, Aeroflot and Uzbekistan Airways, who have expressed interest to operate services to/from Cochin, Oman Air has been granted Cochin as a new point of call during recently concluded bilateral air services consultation on 13.8.2001. The Government of India has also agreed to grant Cochin as a point of call in lieu of Chennai to Saudia as requested by them. A commitment has also been given to grant Cochin as a point of call to Emirates by September 2002. Cochin as also been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Kuwait and Yemen subject to a commercial agreement with the designated airline of India.

Air Bus Service on Bhubaneswar Delhi Route

3049. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government would consider to send Air Bus every day to Bhubaneswar-Delhi instead of